

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER:AVW

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032094

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, EGEN

SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR THAI INVESTMENT COUNSELOR

AND TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK

REF: BANGKOK 2389

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HUMMEL

1. WE SHARE YOUR VIEWS AS TO DESIRABILITY OF FINDING A WAY TO MEET RTG REQUEST WITH RESPECT TO PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR PROPOSED NEW THAI OFFICES IN NEW YORK. AS EA/TB'S JANUARY 24 MEMORANDUM INDICATES, HOWEVER, THE THAI REQUEST RUNS INTO A THICKET OF PROBLEMS, MAINLY OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND U. S. PRECEDENTS, THAT CANNOT BE LIGHTLY BRUSHED ASIDE.

2. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, EA/TB HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT IN A LOW KEY FASHION WITH THE THAI EMBASSY, HOPING THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVISE AN ARRANGEMENT THAT WILL MEET THAI REQUIREMENTS. WE HAVE THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS AT THE SAME LEVEL IN THE THAI EMBASSY AS THEY CHOSE IN PRESENTING THEIR INITIAL REQUEST AND THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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APPARENTLY AGREEABLE TO THEM. WE ALSO THINK WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE DISCUSSIONS THROUGH THAI EMBASSY SINCE THAT WAS THE CHANNEL THEY CHOSE. I SUGGEST, THEREFORE, YOU NOT RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE RTG IN BANGKOK AT

THIS STAGE.

3. LATEST DEVELOPMENT WAS A LETTER OF FEBRUARY 13 FROM THAI
FIRST SECRETARY TO EA/TB DIRECTOR CONFIRMING THE THAI
REQUEST IN WRITING. WE WILL BE STAFFING A RESPONSE NEXT
WEEK AND HOPE WE CAN COME UP WITH A FORMULA SATISFACTORY
TO THE THAI.

4. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

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